

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Multi-National Brigade (East) Camp Bondsteel APO AE 09340



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BG Wade's response to PM Haradinaj's resignation

The events of today mark an important turning point for the people of Kosovo. I greatly respect Prime Minster Haradinajs' decision to peacefully resign his post and answer the charges made against him by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. As SRSG Petersen stated earlier today, this is clearly a sign of Kosovo's political maturity. I urge leaders of all political parties to act with restraint and I applaud the prime minister's response to these events. His call for calm is a selfless demonstration of his concern for all the people of Kosovo.

Today's developments require a peaceful reaction. We fully expect the current environment to remain calm and stable. This too would be a further sign that the people of Kosovo are continuing to move forward in a positive direction. We support the peoples' right to peacefully express their concerns, however, it must be done, as all Kosovo's leaders have stated, in a responsible manner.

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We have full confidence in the ability of UNMIK-P and the KPS to respond to any unrest. The soldiers of Multinational Brigade East stand ready to assist local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment should the need arise. KFOR is prepared for any contingency. Violence will not be tolerated and will set back the process toward settling Kosovo's future.

Thank you.

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